



The Northern Lights

Vol. 32, Issue 12 North Central High School, 1801 E. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240 Friday, March 25, 1988

NC to host National Forensic League finals

By Linda Zynger

North Central will host the Hoosier Central District Speech Team contest on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16. Approximately 15 schools will compete to qualify for the national competition in June.

The North Central team is headed by experienced seniors Mike Lieber, Mark Fleig, Mike Mattler and Andrew Riester. Maseer Bade, Paul Yonover, Angie Plank, Jason Fruits and Bridget Graham perform quite well as juniors while sophomore Tanya Marsh and freshman Pai-ling Yin are making a strong debut.

The students compete in five categories including Humorous, Oratory, Drama, Foreign Extemporaneous and Constitutional Extemporaneous. North Central usually wins the extemporaneous competitions with ease; in these contests students are given 30 minutes to research

current events topics and prepare a speech on it. Each speech is to be five to seven minutes in length and is graded in comparison to the other teams. The students actually compete as individuals but are a part of their school team. The schools compete until elimination which results from two "downs" or lower than half scores.

The speech team is coached by Mr. David Fruits and Mr. Jamie Martindale who have high hopes for this year's team. Martindale is confident that the team will win sectionals and says that, "we have won it every year for the past 13 years and are, by far, the strongest school." Fruits is also optimistic and states that, "the team has worked really hard to prepare for the goal of Nationals and the team, as a whole, would win if we qualify at least one student."

Angie Plank and Paul Yonover

have done well this season with their humorous duo and will both be competing in the NFL competitions where Paul will again be presenting a humorous speech and Angie will compete with an Original Oratory. Angie states that, "the speech team traditionally does well and I am hoping to finish with a place award at the finals." She also commented that, "the competition should be a good learning experience for the beginners, as well as an opportunity for the 'pros' to excell."

The speech team is generally open to everyone during the regular season, but only to National Forensic League members in this upcoming event. Martindale encourages all interested students to learn more about the team now and to talk to either he or Fruits or himself as soon as possible because his goal for next year is a larger competing team.



Angie Plank (left) and Paul Yonover (right) have competed well this season with their humorous duo. Both will go on to the NFL competitions.

Photo by John Keenan

Performing arts department to give special concert

By Tina Poulos

On Wednesday, March 30 the performing arts department choir and symphony orchestra concert will be held at North Methodist Church on 7:30 pm.

Each North Central choir will perform two selections which they anticipate taking to the organizational contests in April.

The finale will be unusual. It is a piece of music by Johannes Brahms,

"Schicksalied," or "Song of Destiny." It will be performed by both the choirs and the orchestra.

Carri Richey, a member of Allegros, says of "Schicksalied," "It is about a man's life. Through the tempo and the dynamics of the music one can tell the high and the low points of his life."

The choir/orchestra concert will be free of charge.

Renowned band to visit NC

By Erin Newton

On Thursday, March 31, North Central will host the nationally-known United States Navy Band.

Directed by Commander Allen E. Beck, a former clarinetist with the Band, the U.S. Navy Band boasts 169 accomplished musicians. Most have graduated from outstanding colleges and have played with school or local symphonies before joining the Navy Band.

Because the group performs at so many different events, there is a

wide variety of music played. Ranging from ceremonial, stately sounds to jazz and other favorites, these tionally, the band performed as the remodeled Statue of Liberty was unveiled in New York Harbor on July 4, 1986. And, in January 1981, it was the U.S. Navy Band playing as the newly-freed American hostages from Iran stepped off the plane. Last year alone, it made over 2,000 public appearances in the Washington D.C. area as well as nationwide.

Now the United States Navy Band will add North Central High

School to its long and distinguished March 31, this prestigious band will put on a purely professional show for the people of N.C. There will be no charge for the concert.

Anyone who has heard a performance of the Navy Band knows that the group puts on a truly top-flight program! And those who have not heard the Band will certainly enjoy its show.

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IN BRIEF

The Performing Arts Department Choir and Symphony Orchestra Concert will be held at North Methodist Church on Wed., March 30 at 7:30 pm.

The registration deadline for the SAT and Achievement Tests to be given on May 7, 1988 is April 1, 1988.

Spring vacation begins at the end of the day, Friday, April 1. School resumes on Mon., April 11.

Agreement reached in contract struggle

By Paul Jaskunas

The ratification of the new contract between the Washington Twp. Teacher's Association and the administration was completed on March 8. The agreement gives the teachers a 6% increase in salary for this school year and a 7% increase for the '88/'89 school year in which the base pay for beginning teachers will be elevated to \$19,861. The contract also promises greater board support for health insurance and

retirement benefits.

The subjects of class size, salary continuation, and staff evaluation, though not discussed in the contract, are dealt with in four "memos of understanding". Under these agreements a central discussion committee will examine all complaints of class size and a trial evaluation program will be executed by a committee of seven teachers and seven administrators.

Earlier in the year the teachers' organization announced that the un-

ion members would not work the '88/'89 school year without a contract. The association's initial proposal at the negotiating table was a 24% raise while the board offered nothing. Months of fruitless bargaining climaxed at a grueling negotiating marathon lasting 46 hours, starting Feb. 11 and ending Feb. 13. At this time the groundwork for the contract was laid down.

But why did it take so long? Association member, Kaaren Rodman, believes it's because the

teachers refused to compromise and the administration refused to bargain the subjects under the "memos of understanding". She also attributed the slowness of progress to the independent attitude teachers often take and their denial of the political aspects of education. In the long run, drastic improvement in our schools will only take place, she says, if the parents, teachers and the school board lobby in the state legislature together for more money.

Editorial

Extra days

By Tanya Marsh

Indiana schools are in trouble. In comparison with the other states, Indiana consistently ranks low in SAT scores. Governor Orr recognized this and decided to do something about it. His A+ program, designed to improve the public education system in Indiana, was recently passed by the state legislature.

One of the provisions of this plan was to add five days to the public school year. The idea was that if teachers were given more time to work with the students, Indiana's SAT scores would rise. This boils down to the basic question: is quantity better than quality?

In the case of these extra days, the answer is no. The cause of Indiana's laggard educational system is not a lack of instructional time. The problem is a lack of resources, a casual attitude toward school on the part of students, and teacher dissatisfaction with the system.

To truly help Indiana's public schools, some of the money and effort being concentrated on increasing the number of days of school should be focused on improving the quality of the education in the days that already exist. Teachers like Mr. Broderick agree that the money could be better spent. He suggests purchasing more materials and attempting to make classes smaller.

Dr. Guffin, head of the English department, thinks that these extra days will be beneficial to smaller schools but that Washington Township schools could make better use of the funds.

It has been said that North Central students have little school spirit. This exemplifies the lackadaisical attitude that many students take toward education. Instead of fueling the fire by forcing hyperactive high school students to stay in school an extra week, wouldn't it be of more use to find ways to get kids interested in learning?

Education should be one of Indiana's top priorities. It is right for money to be committed to this cause. The only problem is the way it should be spent. Certainly there are more creative and efficient ways of improving public education that could be implemented rather than uselessly lengthening the school year.

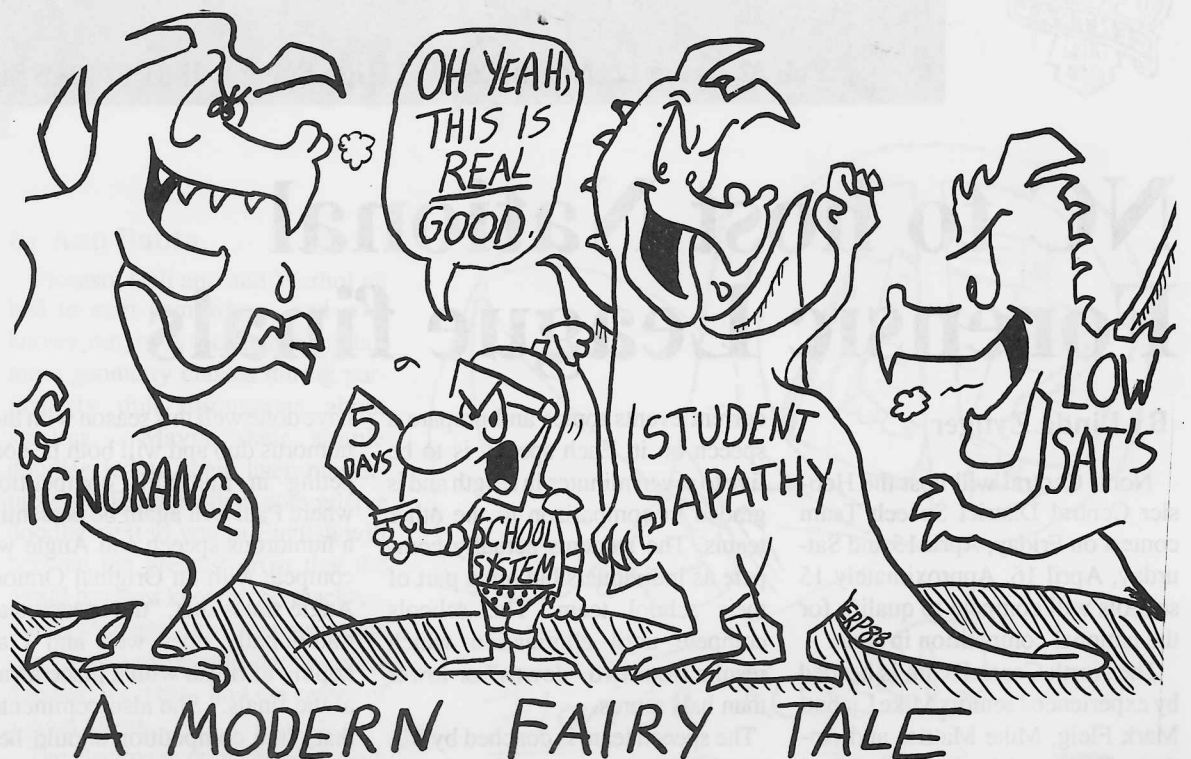
The Northern Lights

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Student Government

Misconceptions

By Steven Campbell

In the past few years, North Central student government has gotten an unfavorable reputation. The common belief concerning Student Council and the class councils is that they are organizations that are an excuse for only the school's most popular people to be excused from class and accomplish—and this is the key word—nothing. This is a feeling that many North Central students have about student government. In fact, in the Student Focus section of "The Northern Lights", a student was quoted as saying that student government is "ineffective" and "...it's a joke..." and "...it's more of a social thing." These ideas are unjustified and absurd, but again common.

Contrary to that popular belief, student government is in existence for the students. It represents the students—it is the student voice. However, it is solely up to the student whether or not they want to be a part of that voice. And most of the time, these students will not get themselves involved. Most likely, these are also the same students who criticize the councils' effec-

tiveness. It is true that sometimes one of the councils may be ineffective or may not be as productive as it could be, but that does not mean the council members do not try. The members spend a countless amount of hours, in school and out of school, planning, supervising and running school events. But that is about all they can do. The students must take the next step and get involved. However, it seems that the student body does not feel that it should get involved or they just don't care. This is very obvious by the increasingly low attendances at council-planned functions, lack of spirit at pep sessions and all athletic events, and a general apathetic feeling that can be felt through the school. Students are extremely quick to criticize a council failure while failing to realize one thing: student government can and will accomplish absolutely nothing without the full support and enthusiasm of the student body.

Student government is not here to try and change the world. It's just here to try to make going to school at 7:30 and leaving at 3:00,

a little easier. Student government can make high school enjoyable. After all, without student government where is Homecoming, Grad Dance, Junior Prom, and Junior Spectacular? What about the class ring, Blood Drive, and Panther Post? What about N.C. Prix, and spirit days? And don't forget pep sessions, class parties, class T-shirts, and hilariously funny special announcements. All are impossibilities without student government.

Student government is not perfect, but under the apathetic circumstances of North Central High School, it does a decent job. Those students who choose to constantly and criticize student government should try, even if it is only once, to get involved with the councils are really see what goes on. They should visit a meeting, or help decorate for a party or just plain offer ideas to the councils, and stop blasting every move that the student council and class councils make without truly understanding what they are all about. For a wise man once said: "People mock what they do not understand."

Feature

Looking for the perfect date

By Susie Mattler

Various couples can be seen throughout the halls of North Central. But what is it that brings two people together? We have asked some students what exactly it is that they look for in a prospective romantic partner.

"I look for someone who I could have a fun time with, or be totally serious. Someone who is intelligent, witty, honest, and caring all in one."
Jason Woodruff, junior

"I look for a guy that has a lot of common sense, a sense of humor, is honest, dependable, and knows what he wants to do with his life. He has to have self-motivation, and self-confidence, but not be conceited."
Aisha Lewis, sophomore

"Guys like girls who are friendly and readily show their affection."
Carl Anderson and Terry Rau, seniors

"A girl who is there when you need her the most."
Jason Venturi, freshman

"What girls look for in guys is sensitivity and someone that takes time out of their schedule to spend time alone with the girl."
Lisa McDaniel, senior

"I have established high standards for a romantic partner. So that too many men aren't eliminated, I generally accept regular breathing and a steady heart beat as criteria."
Miss Brown, English teacher

"Someone who is open, honest, intelligent, fun-loving, interesting, at least 5'10", beautiful, available, and over 16 years old. If you're out there-call."

Jon Nadler, senior

"Godliness."
Rebecca Kasper, sophomore

"What I look for in a romantic partner is a caring attitude and sincere dedication to one relationship. Someone who is sensitive to his partner's feelings and is not afraid to express his adoration with flowers, letters, dinner, or a simple kiss."
Maya White, junior

"A brain-dead, air-headed, blond, Californian, beach girl who will make a sand castle for me."
Charles Wong, sophomore

"Aside from being honest and trustworthy, he must be able to communicate openly, both his feelings and thoughts. A good relationship thrives on communication, as well as trust."

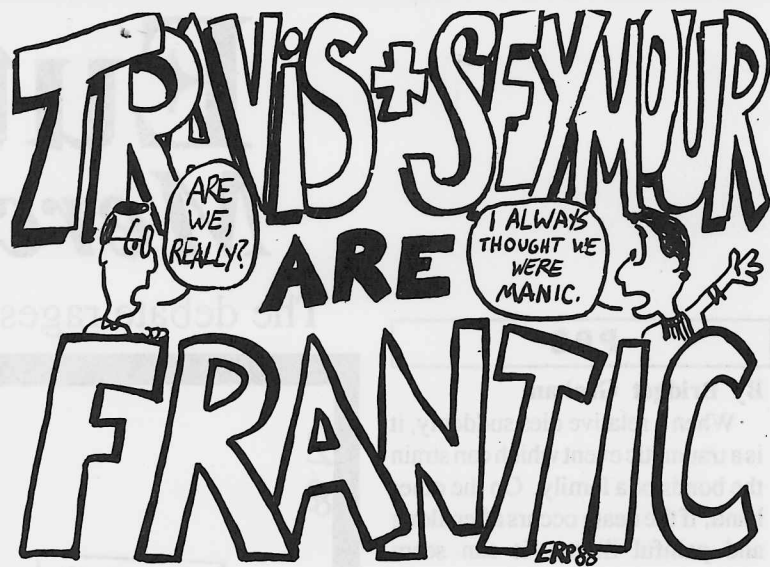
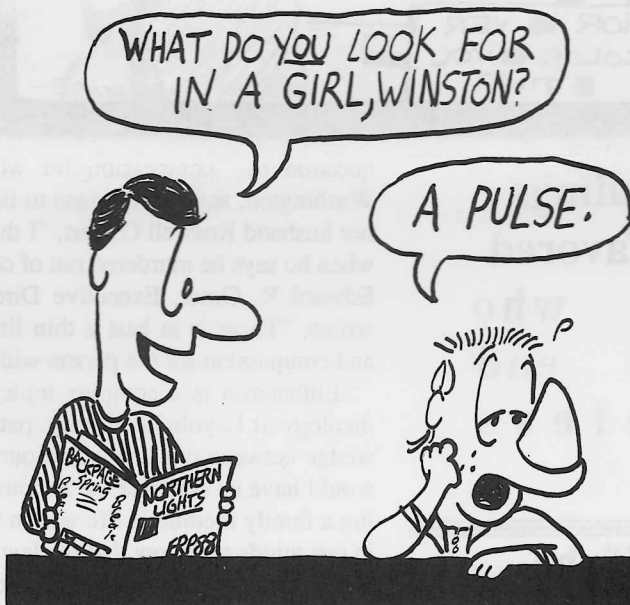
Kelly Williams, senior

"In a partner, gifted intelligence and congeniality are necessary, but for that woman to be considered prospective, she must be well-proportioned."

Jon Temple, sophomore

"A guy who'd be willing to listen when I need someone to talk to. Also, he'd have to be a fun guy to be around and not shy or conceited. I'd just like to meet someone who'd respect my feelings too."

Amy Sanford, freshman



T: Hi, he's Seymour.

S: And he's Travis.

T: Today we're going to take a look at the latest concoction from director Roman Polanski. You all know good ol' Roman, whose sexual perversions are known worldwide, especially to many law enforcement agencies.

S: As you may or may not know Polanski cannot enter the United States due to an outstanding warrant for his arrest. You see he got himself into some trouble with a minor and-

T: Please, no gory details. Anyway, because of this he filmed his latest work, *Frantic*, in Paris, city of lights, love, and Pepe le Pew.

S: Needless to say the setting is breathtaking, even the alleyways, the slums, and the dive bars. Also breathtaking is the female lead of the film, Emmanuelle Seigner, a Polanski discovery.

T: But that's not what we're really excited about.

S: I am!

T: The story centers around Harrison Ford, a San Francisco cardiologist attending a conference in Paris with his wife.

S: Everything is hunky-dory except for the fact that his wife has picked up the wrong suitcase at the airport. While Ford takes a shower his wife disappears; from here on things are not so hunky-dory.

T: Ford's curiosity about where his wife has gone turns to desperation and panic. Clues abound. The mistaken suitcase, his wife's charm bracelet found on the street below, a bum who gives an account of an apparent kidnapping.

S: The hotel security, the French police, and the American embassy all prove useless in his quest to find his abducted wife. All in all it's a bummer weekend in Paris. First jet-lag, now a kidnapping.

T: He sets out on his own to locate his loved one. The search takes him to shady apartments as well as shady ladies. He finds thugs, drugs, and a corpse. S: He also finds himself quite naked in Miss Seigner's bed in one scene. He emerges from the bed holding only a stuffed animal over his modesty. He is then kicked in the face causing him to fall unconscious, and unbelievably, he still holds the toy over his masculinity.

T: We're a little disappointed in Harrison Ford, one of my favorite screen actors, because he sold out his body for a little money. Shame, shame.

S: But apart from that his low key performance is brilliant and intriguing. Ford gets better and better with each role.

T: Don't look for too many car chases and shoot-outs in this film. The suspense and tension are enforced by the slowness of the action. You really begin to understand the frantic state of mind Ford is in.

S: Polanski, who co-wrote the film, has woven a neat, cohesive little tale of panic. The movie has superb sets, fine acting on all fronts, and it invokes a little wry humor here and there.

T: My hat goes off to that Emmanuelle chick; I hope to see more of her in the future.

S: Until next time, stay clean.

T: Or don't.

Travis and Seymour share stuffed animals with Joel Andrew Palmer and Chris Ruch.

Student Focus

Amy Everson, senior

What's the most interesting thing you've done?

I think one of the most interesting things I have done is when I went lobstering in Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. It was really interesting learning how to do that.

If you could go anywhere in the world (all expenses paid), where would you go?

Australia - I've always dreamed of going there ever since I was little.

What is the ideal job to you?

I think I would say my ideal job would be working with children - something that involve taking care of and helping little kids to learn.



Amy Everson, senior

What do you like least about yourself?

I'm a procrastinator. If I could change that... it's a very hard habit to break.

If you could end world hunger, the nuclear arms race, or racism by killing one innocent person, would you do it? Why or why not?

No, because I don't think it would solve anything. I think every human life is as important as twenty thousand lives. I just don't think I would. I believe there are many other ways to solve things besides killing.

What do you like most about yourself?

That I don't follow the groups. I stand on going my own way. I'm always going the opposite direction than everyone else. I'm also proud that I haven't gotten into drugs - that I have had the will to say no.

Euthanasia: Mercy or Murder?

The debate rages on about the right to die.....

PRO

By Bridget Graham

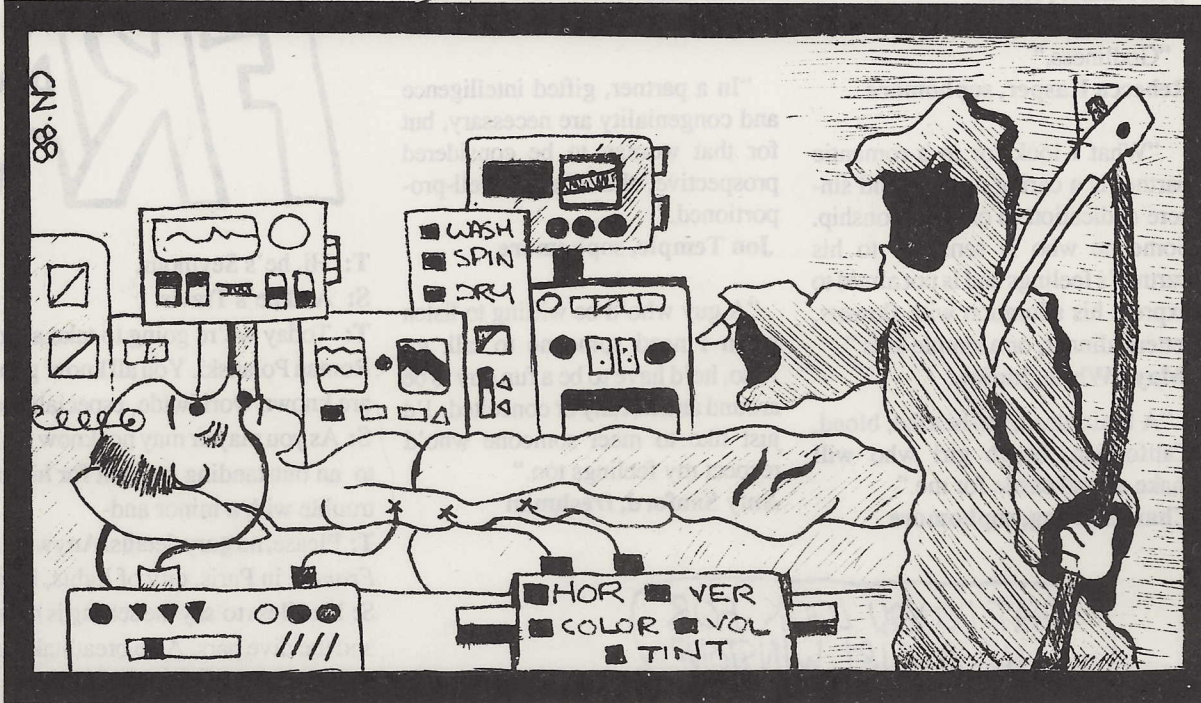
When a relative dies suddenly, it is a traumatic event which can strain the bonds of a family. On the other hand, if the death occurs after a long and painful illness, it can seem almost a relief. The pain of watching a loved one slowly disintegrate as one stands by helplessly is more than some can bear. Yet it is a situation that occurs more and more frequently as modern medicine becomes capable of prolonging life. Sir Theodore Fox, distinguished doctor, states that "though cures are getting commoner, so too are half-cures. If a doctor goes on prolonging a life that can never again have purpose or meaning, his kindness becomes a cruelty." For this reason, some turn to euthanasia.

Oxford English Dictionary gives three meanings for the word "euthanasia": the first, "a quiet and easy death"; the second, "the means of procuring this"; and the third, "the action of inducing a quiet and easy death." Under the auspices of these definitions, many believe that the term euthanasia should refer only to a death that comes as a good or happy event to the one who dies. Derek Humphry, author of *Let Me Die Before I Wake*, collected articles detailing more than 150 cases of mercy killing, assisted suicide, double suicide, and euthanasia. These articles describe suffering people who wanted to die, or vegetative people who had at some point expressed the wish never to exist in such a state. Proponents of euthanasia make a very good case for the right of any individual to die if they so choose. They say that if the victims were capable, they would take their own lives, but weakness, paralysis, or mental debilitation has rendered them incapable of the act.

The courts certainly take no strong stand against euthanasia. In case after case, their rulings have favored those who would end hopeless lives. In the famous case of Karen Ann Quinlan, the New Jersey courts ruled that her adoptive parents could remove her from artificial life support. When Thomas Engel, a registered nurse in Milwaukee, disconnected the respirator of a stroke victim to end the patient's misery, he was charged only with practicing medicine without a license. Wesley Slaughter was cleared of manslaughter charges after he accidentally survived an attempted double suicide. The list of similar incidents goes on and on.

The legislative branch of our government joins the judicial branch in increasing acceptance of euthanasia and similar practices. Federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid have stringent financial requirements. Says one family practice doctor at Methodist Hospital, "Federal agencies are already using financially based denial of certain necessary medical practices. They're moving toward euthanasia as a medical policy due to the incredible expense of maintaining life. It would be sort of a peacetime triage based on non-recoverability and expense of care." Many supporters of euthanasia are vehement in stating that it is far better not to keep a patient alive if for financial reasons they will be denied the painkillers and quality medical care they need.

The case for euthanasia is summed up by Dr. Leslie Weatherhead of the City Temple in London when he states, "I sincerely believe that those who come after us will wonder why on earth we kept a human being alive when all the dignity, beauty, and meaning of life had vanished; when any gain to anyone was clearly impossible and only devastating loss was left; and when we would have been punished by the state if we kept an animal alive in similar physical conditions."



**Court rulings
have favored
those who
would end
hopeless
lives.**

**"Does life be-
come less
worthy of
protection
when a person
is old, in-
firm, and in
need of care?"**

Edward R. Grant

NOTE: The Insights Page is not an editorial page, and in all fairness and in accordance to proper journalistic practices, both sides of an issue are presented. The views of a "pro" or "con" article are not necessarily the personal views of the writer(s).

CON

By Brad Evans

When God spoke those formidable words, "Thou shalt not kill," maybe he wasn't specific enough, because in our present society there are still those who believe that killing, under certain circumstances, is justifiable, that to take another's life, if done with good intent, is perfectly acceptable. Many feel that to condone this "second guessing" of the Lord, as well as the law, is not only wrong, it is immoral.

Whether euthanasia takes the form of a shot to the head of a terminally ill person, or simply the denial of vital medical treatment, in every case the accused insists that their actions were those of mercy and compassion.

Surely these cases must raise the question of, "compassion for whom?" Alice Paul of Leavenworth, Washington, says in response to the "mercy" killing of Emily Gilbert by her husband Roswell Gilbert, "I think Roswell Gilbert is telling the truth when he says he murdered out of compassion. Compassion for Roswell." Edward R. Grant, Executive Director for Americans United for Life, writes, "There is at best a thin line between compassion for the victim and compassion for the person with the burden of caring for the victim."

Euthanasia is a complex topic; it is, as James Walter, professor of theology at Loyola University, puts it, a confusing issue which "drives a wedge between our hearts and our heads." Our hearts and our emotions would have us condone the actions of Roswell Gilbert, who felt that taking a family member's life was in that member's best interest. However, in our minds we know that the law can in no way allow for "compassionate" homicide. Grant holds this position, feeling that in dealing with euthanasia we are left with "the question of whether the law should make an exception for 'compassionate' killings. However much our emotions may favor such a change, this is a path the law should not take."

Grant also adds that "the protection of human life from acts of violence is one of the fundamental purposes of our legal system. Does life become less worthy of protection when a person is old, infirm, and in need of care?" If it does, then one would be inclined to question the validity of our protection under the law, as one would practically be forced "to qualify for this protection by meeting arbitrary physical or intellectual criteria."

Euthanasia by definition calls for the killing of persons based on one person's judgement of a poor "quality of life," under which the victim lives. Opponents of euthanasia contend that a sole person does not have the right nor the power to end a life. "If we allow the 'quality of life,' judgements, how and where do we draw the line to prevent ourselves from slipping down the slope into euthanasia of severely handicapped patients who are conscious?" says Walter. This presents a problem, as someone must be left with the responsibility to decide when life is no longer valuable. Stephen Gimpl Sr. says, "If we permit people to go around killing the sick, why not also the hungry, the poor, the mentally impaired; how about the handicapped? Where does it all end?"

Webster defines homicide as "the killing of one human being by another." Despite the means, whether they be unplugging a respirator, injecting lethal chemicals or brutally stabbing, regardless of intent, it is still "the killing of one human being by another," and that is wrong.

Sports

Girls' track team rebuilding

By Patrick Mulry

The girls track team is looking to rebuild this year. Although sustaining the key loss of high-school All-American Maicel Malone, a four year letter winner, the team returns this spring with a core of runners around which this year's team can be formed.

Eight girls that qualified for the state finals last year return to the team this year. Seniors Kimberly White, Karen McDaniel, junior Amy Hadley and sophomore Jennifer Shackleford all return for the 1600 meter relay. Hadley will also compete in the 100 and 300 meter hurdles, for which she qualified in state last year. Junior

high-jumper Dionne Smith, sophomore distance runner Sarah Wiehe and sprinters Anisa Evans and Michelle Carpenter are hoping to combine for many points this season.

Coach Steve McIntyre sees the team's schedule as having some challenges. Tech and Gary Roosevelt, perennial track powers, will both be at the Tech Invitational, and Tech will be at the N.C. Invitational, making tough meets even harder to win for the Panthers.

The loss of Malone will not be the only thing the Panthers will have to combat this year. McIntyre feels that the field events

need more work and more depth and the distance crew is inexperienced. Combine these two factors with a young team and a rough season could be in the works. McIntyre hopes to counter those problems with team members from the freshman class. "We have always had freshmen that helped us," said McIntyre in a recent interview. He also feels that the loss of Malone will have a profound effect on the team. "Maicel was the greatest female sprinter ever in Indiana. She was an almost automatic 30 points in each of three events. Some of the new kids will have to come through and try to make up for her."



Girls' tennis team practicing hard at the Raquet Club in preparation for the season opener

Girls' tennis hopes to keep good reputation

By Brett Henry

As spring is about ready to roll in, so too is the girls' tennis team's season. The Panthers are looking to duplicate last year's performance and bring back a second straight state title.

Coach Sheila Evans returns six lettermen to the squad this season. Leading the way will be senior Stephanie Reece, who last year won the IHSAA state singles title. Reece, who is expected to be at the number one singles spot as she was last year, was defeated only once last season. She should continue her winning ways as she embarks on the season facing her.

The Panthers lost their num-

ber two singles player from a year ago, but senior Laura Moss will most likely come in to fill the void left by Kristi Bastian. Moss brings in three years of varsity experience to this position.

As for the three other starting spots, including number three singles and number one and two doubles, they are all up in the air right now. Four people from last year's team, senior Elizabeth Weaver and juniors Dina Bleeker, Robyn Vanatta and Hema Gupta, as well as two oncoming Freshmen, Sheila Demars and Ali Bleeker, are expected to challenge for these positions.

This year's team should be real strong, especially with the debut of the two freshmen and has a real good chance to win the state championship again. "We are pretty well packed with talent," commented Dina Bleeker. Carmel and Cathedral will be two opponents who will supply stiff competition for the Panthers.

The team kicks off its season at home on April 13 against Bloomington South. This should prove to be the start of an exciting season for the girls' tennis team, which will hopefully end on June fourth with a state title.

Softball anticipates success

By Jason Fruits

The North Central Girl's softball team, coming off a 13-8 sectional championship season and with eight returning starters, looks to have a successful season.

The returning seniors include third baseman Shannon Black, who was 2nd team all-state last year, first baseman Amy Schnaiter and pitchers Jenny Hoagland and Martha Mayes, who can also play in the outfield.

Juniors Lori Spradlin, Amy Timble, Paige Geddes, Laura

Diehl and Jenny Barnes are the other returning starters.

Others looking to contribute this year include Jenny Barto, Kari Gumm, Jasmin Jordan, Michele Wilkes, Amy Harlor and Jennifer Mc Carthy.

Coach Carolyn Coyne said, "Considering we have eight returning starters we should improve on last season. Our success depends on how hard the players work."

The team opens their season with three straight road games

against Hamilton southeastern, Northwest and Chatard on April 13, 14 and 16. Their first home game is April 19 against Broad Ripple. All told, however, 7 out of the first ten are on the road.

The road to state begins with Sectionals which are the week of May 23. With plenty of hard work the team hopes to be successful in the tournament. As Coach Coyne says, "Our team goals are to do the best we can and of course to win."

Standing behind the Mike

Tournament time rollin'

By Mike Mattler

It is said that there is no use in crying over spilled milk, however, on the issue of the state high school basketball tournament, further comment seems appropriate. The representation of the Indianapolis region by Ben Davis shows a clear breakdown in the IHSAA's tournament system.

The basic problem with the system is its failure to seed its teams. Few would argue that going into the tournament, the Hinkle sectional (where North Central plays) was packed with the area's toughest teams, while the other three Indianapolis sectionals were comparatively quite weak. As a result, several very good teams were eliminated in the Hinkle sectional while weaker teams advanced from the other three Indianapolis sectionals.

Another injustice created by this system is the continuous home court advantage which teams like Marion, New Castle, Anderson and Richmond enjoy in the tournament. It is an indisputable fact of sports that teams play better at home than they do on the road. To give certain teams such a large advantage in a tournament designed to produce the state's best team is nothing short of ludicrous.

It is hard to imagine this type of logic in use to put together to NCAA tournament. Under the IHSAA system, first round pairings would group North Carolina, North Carolina State, and Duke together for early round games. Similarly, Indiana, Purdue, Kentucky, and Louisville would square out early. Out west, early rounds would pair such perennial powers as Boise State, Oregon State, Utah State and Wyoming. This would result in a highly unbalance Final Four.

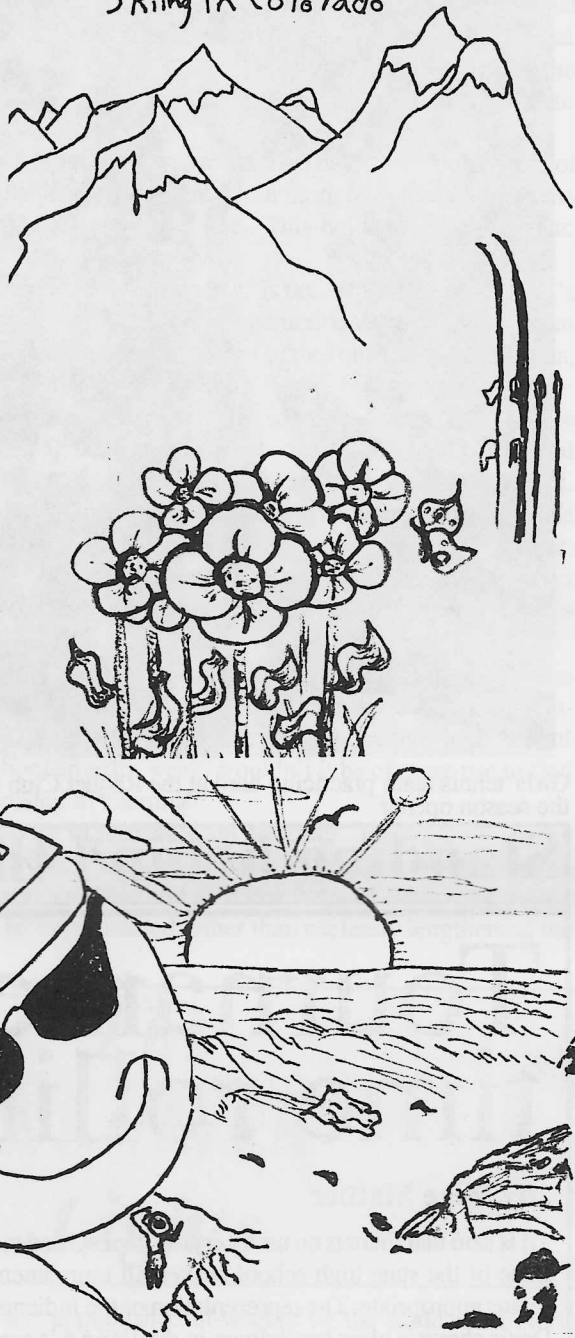
The answer to the IHSAA's disgrace is to keep the teams set in their regions, but to seed each team and set early round games accordingly. This plan would keep teams from driving all over the state, while at the same time provide for fairer and more accurate competition in the tournament.

Backpage

Spring

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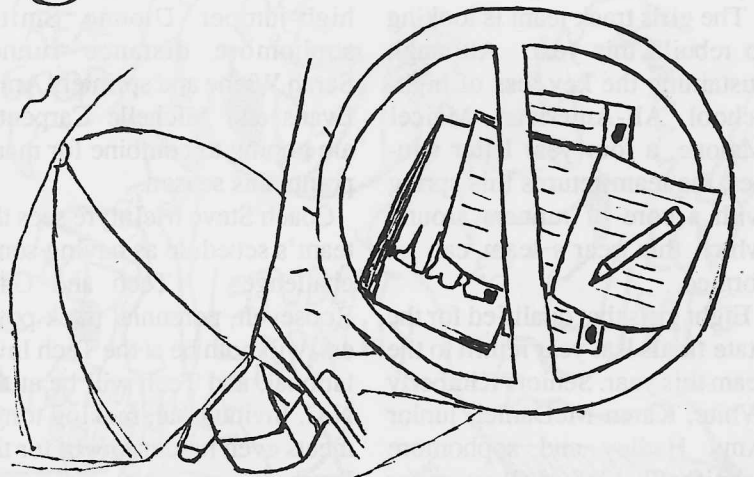
Skiing in Colorado



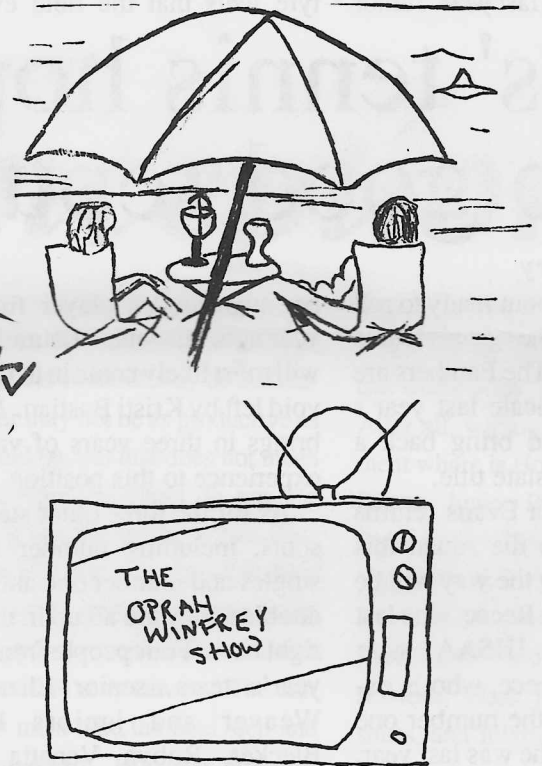
by Ann Banta

Picasso, Dali and Warhol all had to start somewhere, and who knows, maybe it was in their sophomore geometry classes during particularly dull discussions about squares. Maybe their simple doodles led to their later masterpieces! Perhaps that compulsive doodler next to you in English will become the greatest artist that the world has ever known! So teachers, think twice next time you wrest the pen from a seemingly unconscious doodler, for it may end the career of a great talent.

The Backpage presents N.C. with thoughts of Spring Break from some of its own compulsive doodlers.



Florida Keys



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